

IDAHO COMMUNITY TREES

News You
Can Use

No. 69
WINTER
2014

A NEWS BULLETIN FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO, THE IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS—COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM AND THE IDAHO LANDS RESOURCE COORDINATING COUNCIL

Craigmont Wins Legacy of Leaves Award

The City of Craigmont is the recipient of the prestigious 2014 Legacy of Leaves Award from the Idaho Nursery and Landscape Association. The announcement was made at INLA's luncheon during the Horticulture Expo in Boise, January 23rd.

The Legacy of Leaves Award recognizes Craigmont for leveraging a \$300 Arbor Day Grant into a unique Arbor Day celebration that added over \$5,000 to the value of the community's forest. Student Jacob Briggs coordinated and documented the event and followed up with weed control and watering through the summer. Craigmont's project involved 46 high school students, two teachers and five other adults. Reggear Nurseries donated 20 large trees that were transported to the site by Double A Ranch. The City of Craigmont provided additional funding as well as a backhoe and operator to unload and assist digging planting holes. Craigmont Lions Club provided additional funding for irrigation. As part of the project, wildlife habitat surrounding Highland High School was improved with

*Need material to help celebrate Arbor Day?
See page 3.*

numerous seedlings from the University of Idaho Pitkin Forest Nursery. Students, teachers, Idaho Department of Lands staff, Lewis Soil Conservation District, and staff from the Natural Resources Conservation Service pitched in to do the planting.

INLA administers Arbor Day Grants in partnership with Idaho Department of Lands, Avista Power, Idaho Power, and Rocky Mountain Power to assist Idaho communities in the celebration of Arbor Day. Fifty-five Arbor Day grants were awarded statewide in 2013. For information, contact a community forestry assistant listed on page 2.

Coordinator's Column

Do You Know What Your Trees Are Up To?

You really should find out

Over the years, I've written a lot in this column about tree canopy assessments using benefit quantification tools and geospatial technology. These tools help guide community planting efforts to maximize benefits such as reducing energy use, taming stormwater runoff, and improving air quality. What they don't provide is information about the individual trees for which communities are responsible.

Yet, knowing what street and park trees we have, where they are located, their species, size and condition is critical to managing this valuable part of a city's infrastructure. A standard tree inventory can give us this information, help us establish tree program goals and develop a plan of action to achieve these goals.

Knowing species composition, for example, can help us understand the risks we might face from diseases and pests. Many communities lost the majority of their street and park trees to Dutch elm disease because they planted too many elms. In the last issue of this newsletter, we reported that the emerald ash borer, which can decimate ash populations, has been moving westward across the country and is now in Colorado. It's only a matter of time before it reaches Idaho. Ideally, a community's "forest" should be composed of no more than 20% of any genera, and no more than 10% of any one species to ensure our forests can withstand such pests. An inventory will tell you how well your community is



Clark Christianson

Craigmont's award-winning Arbor Day celebration is an excellent example of what community partnerships can accomplish.

Continued on page 2

achieving this and guide decisions about what trees should and should not be planted.

Tree condition is, of course, also very important to know. Our trees are valuable resources, just like roads, buildings and other infrastructure. Proper maintenance will increase health and prolong both their lives and their value, and knowing their condition and maintenance needs can help you prioritize how to best invest your limited funds.

A couple issues ago I wrote about tree risk management and public safety. A limited-visual assessment should be part of a tree inventory. This will identify the most obvious public safety hazards, which should be top priorities for action. Not knowing trees are at risk of failure does not absolve a community from negligence; rather, not knowing this information is likely to be viewed as a breach of duty. An inventory will help your community stay on top of public safety issues.

An inventory will also identify and characterize planting sites, which gives you an idea of how well stocked your city lands are, and allows you to better plan for future planting projects.

IDAHO COMMUNITY TREES

Idaho Community Trees is published four times a year by the College of Natural Resources, Department of Conservation Social Sciences, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83844. Direct editorial matters to James R. Fazio, Editor: 208/882-0965; fax 208/882-0373; e-mail jrfazio@turbonet.com.

For address changes, program assistance or additional information, contact Community Forestry Coordinator, Idaho Dept. of Lands, 3284 W. Industrial Loop, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815; phone 208/666-8621; fax 208/769-1524; e-mail communitytrees@idl.idaho.gov.

Field Contacts
Northern Idaho: Stephen Drinkard, C.F. Ass't., Ph. 208-610-9999; drinkard.s@gmail.com.

Central Idaho: Phil Shinn, C.F. Ass't., Ph. 208-790-7402; forestryaide@gmail.com.

Southern Idaho: Gerry Bates, C. F. Ass't., Ph. 208-681-5964; plantingidaho@gmail.com.

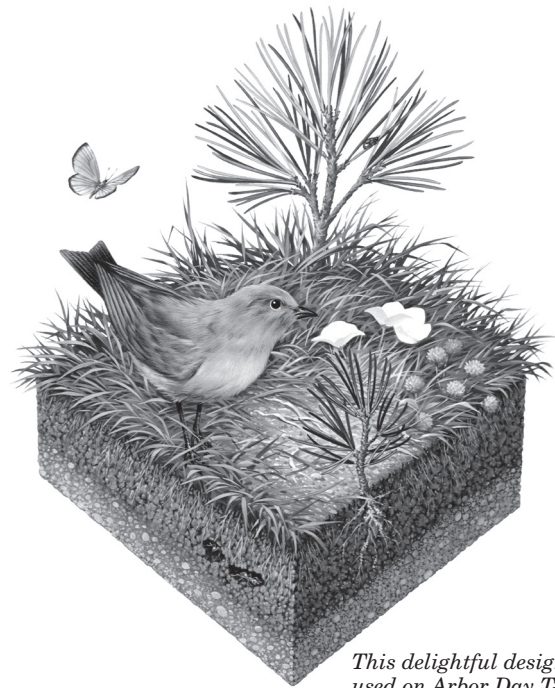
Treasure Valley Canopy Project: Lance Davisson, Ph. 208-994-1135; lance.davisson@gmail.com.

Permission is hereby given to duplicate and distribute this newsletter for educational purposes. Credit is appreciated.

Last, your inventory data can be used with the USDA Forest Service's tree benefit "i-Tree" software, so you can determine the monetary benefit of your street trees to reduce energy use and stormwater runoff, improve air quality and determine how much they contribute to property values.

Gerry, Philip and Stephen—our community forestry assistants—are available to help you plan and conduct a complete tree inventory and develop from this a realistic management plan appropriate for your community. Their contact information is in the masthead. Knowing what you have is the first step in planning for a safe, healthy, valuable and diverse community forest.

—David Stephenson
Community Forestry
Coordinator



This delightful design will be used on Arbor Day T-shirts made available by the Idaho Forest Products Commission. See article at right.

American Falls Rescues Trees During Revitalization

American Falls is completing a downtown revitalization project that includes new sidewalks with planting spaces for street trees to enhance the shopping district. However, there were eight, 6- to 8-inch diameter maples in round, above-ground, concrete containers located in the middle of the street. The 5-foot diameter containers served as a traffic island for at least 20 years but had to be removed. The trees were stunted due to a lack of rooting space but were generally in good condition.

Fortunately, Jeremy Peirsol, Parks and Recreation Director and an ISA Certified Arborist, decided to try saving the trees by moving them to a park. The city's street crew removed the tree pots by scraping the pot from the concrete island with a large front-end loader. They found that the pots had open bottoms and that many roots had grown down and out of the pot. The trees were hauled to their new location where the crew removed the concrete with a saw. They found that the root ball was like a large version of nursery stock of potted plants. The largest circling root was about 3/8" diameter. Jeremy scored the roots with a shovel and added a root stimulator as the trees were replanted and staked.

According to Gerry Bates, community forestry assistant, the trees are growing beautifully and show no ill signs from the move. They now add beauty and value to the park and will remain a valuable asset to American Falls. While it would have been easier to simply eliminate the trees from their previous location, a little thought and foresight added to the composition of the community forest – and at very little cost.

Helpful Ways to Celebrate Arbor Day

Need help planning your Arbor Day celebration? Here is an inexpensive way to liven up your event with trees, t-shirts and more! This year, Arbor Day falls on Friday, April 25 and the Idaho Forest Products Commission is gearing up for a statewide celebration of our forests and trees. This year's project includes a special new Arbor Day t-shirt, brochure and poster, a "look to the forest" photo competition for kids, a statewide billboard campaign, public service radio announcements, a celebration at the state Capitol and, of course, seedlings for distribution at Arbor Day celebrations. Communities, schools, clubs and individuals are encouraged to participate. Contact the Commission right away to reserve seedlings as supplies are limited. Learn more at www.idahoforests.org or contact Betty Munis at (208) 334-3292 or ifpc@idahoforests.org.

Also available to help teach about trees and forestry...

■ *Look to the Forest Poster* A beautiful new 'Look to the Forest' poster is now available. One side of the poster features Idaho conifer trees, and the other journeys from a bird's eye aerial view to a bird's eye ground view! Illustrations are from Idaho artist Will Nelson.

■ *Forest Fast Breaks DVD* The Idaho Forest Products Commission has produced this new DVD called Forest Fast Breaks that simplifies complex forestry topics into concise, engaging 2-minute animated videos. The DVD contains 14 titles, including photosynthesis, carbon capture, ecosystems, forest fire, green building, water, wildlife and more! You can order free copies or check out the videos online at www.idahoforests.org.

Note: The above materials are available free to Idaho residents. For information, phone 208-334-3292 or order at www.idahoforests.org.

■ *Sustainable Forestry Tour for Educators* This offers Idaho's 3rd – 12th grade teachers and counselors an incredible opportunity to learn about the sustainable cycle of Idaho's forests from seedlings to lumber, watershed protection and wildlife habitat! Participants get an on-the-ground experience in Idaho's forests and face-to-face encounters with forestry professionals. The tour is provided by the Idaho Forest Products Commission and a variety of sponsors. This year's tour will be held June 23 – 27 and IFPC is looking for sponsors and participants. If interested in participating, please apply by **March 31** at www.idahoforests.org/tour.htm. For more information, contact IFPC as noted above.

Winter/Spring 2014 Events Calendar

February 20

Turf, Tree, and Landscape Conference, Templin's Hotel, Post Falls, ID. To learn more and register, visit www.inlagrow.org.

February 8 – April 19

2014 Utah Arborist Series, Provo City Library. Classes can be taken individually or as a group. Visit the Utah Community Forest Council website: <http://www.uta-hurbanforest.org/> or download the brochure at http://www.utahurbanforest.org/images/2014_Spring_Arborist.pdf.

February 8

Tree Biology, Tree and Soil Relations, Water Management

March 15

Tree ID, Selection & Planting, Plant Health Care, Trees & Construction

April 19

Safety, Tree Assessment and Risk Management,

Diagnosis & Disorders, Climbing and Working in Trees

February 25

Idaho Lands Resource Coordinating Council Meeting, Idaho Dept of Lands Office, Coeur d'Alene. Contact Suzie Jude at sjude@idl.idaho.gov or 208-666-8620 for more information.

February 25-28

American Society of Consulting Arborists Academy, Newport Beach, CA. Visit http://asca-consultants.org/edprograms/consulting_academy_14.cfm for more information and to register.

April 25

Arbor Day!

Upcoming Certified Arborist (CA), Certified Tree Worker (CTW), Municipal Specialist (MS) and Utility Specialist (UA) written Exams

February 28, 2014 – Redmond, OR (CA, CTW, UA, MS)

April 19, 2014 – Spokane, WA (CA, CTW, UA, MS)

June 7, 2014 – Lewiston, ID (CA, CTW, UA, MS)

September 27, 2014 – Pocatello, ID (CA, CTW, UA, MS)

For information or to register, contact Pacific Northwest Chapter, International Society of Arboriculture at 503/874-8263 or 217-355-9411 or email: info@pnwisa.org.

University of Idaho

Department of Conservation Social Sciences

875 Perimeter Drive MS 1139

Moscow, ID 83844-1139

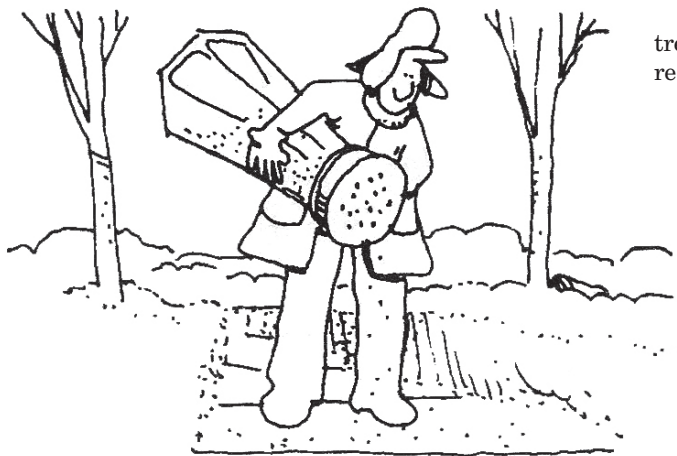


This newsletter is made possible in part by a grant from the USDA Forest Service. The USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. To file a complaint call (202) 720-5964.

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO

Tree tip

Salt Steaks, Not Trees and Waterways



De-icing salt damages cars, bridges, conifer foliage, tree roots and aquatic systems. Anything we can do to reduce its use will help our environment.

- Use traction sand
- Try CMA (calcium magnesium acetate)
- Consider mixing beet juice with salt

Officials at Morton Arboretum in Illinois say that it lowers the freezing point of water to as low as -20° and reduces 'salt bounce' from 30 percent to 5 percent. The arboretum now uses 9 times less salt and saves nearly \$14,000.